

RESOLUTION NO. 128-08

BY: **MARY GALINAS, SEAN BRENNAN**

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING FEDERAL AND STATE EFFORTS TO RESTORE THE GREAT LAKES THROUGH THE FEDERAL "GREAT LAKES COLLABORATION IMPLEMENTATION ACT" AND THE STATE OF OHIO'S "GREAT LAKES – ST. LAWRENCE RIVER BASIN WATER RESOURCES COMPACT", AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes comprise almost 20% of the world's surface fresh water and 95% of North America's fresh surface water, and supply drinking water to more than 40 million U.S. and Canadian residents; and,

WHEREAS, Lake Erie supplies drinking water to nearly 3 million Ohioans and supports local agriculture; a diversity of wildlife, including a world class fishery; maritime trade; industry; and tourism; and,

WHEREAS, Lake Erie is ailing from a multitude of stressors, including aquatic invasive species, toxic contamination of river and lake sediments, partially or inadequately treated sewage discharges, pollution from non-point sources, and coastal habitat loss; and,

WHEREAS, Lake Erie is the shallowest, warmest and most biologically productive, producing more fish for human consumption than all of the other four Great Lakes combined; and,

WHEREAS, Lake Erie is incredibly vulnerable to stressors as the smallest Great Lake both in surface area and volume, with a drainage basin totaling 30, 140 square miles, and encompassing parts of Indiana, Michigan, New York, Ohio, Ontario, and Pennsylvania; and,

WHEREAS, the health of Lake Erie is essential to the quality of life and economic vitality of communities along its shores and in the surrounding basin, supporting tourism, industrial, recreational, commercial, and cultural activities; and,

WHEREAS, over 140 scientists have endorsed a paper, "Prescription for Great Lakes Ecosystem Protection and Restoration – Avoiding the Tipping Point of Irreversible Changes," which calls for urgent action in the Great Lakes to avoid an ecosystem breakdown; and,

WHEREAS, there has been an unprecedented collaborative effort on the part of 1,500 people representing federal, state, tribal and local governments, research institutions including universities, businesses, agricultural organizations, non-governmental entities and private citizens to develop an Action Plan to Restore and Protect the Great Lakes; and,

WHEREAS, specifically, the Act will provide funding to:

- Create and restore wetlands and other fish and wildlife habitat;
- Reduce municipal sewage overflows;
- Clean up toxic sediments in Great Lakes Areas of Concern, including the Cuyahoga River;
- Reduce mercury pollution;
- Otherwise implement the Action Plan to Restore and Protect the Great Lakes; and,

WHEREAS, local governments need financial assistance to upgrade wastewater treatment plans and infrastructure, to reduce non-point source pollution; and,

WHEREAS, the Florida Everglades and other nationally significant water resources have already benefited from significant federal investments in restoration and protection; and,

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes are a treasured natural resource in need of substantial state and federal financial assistance; and,

WHEREAS, protection of the Great Lakes is a challenge of utmost significance and scope to the people of the City of Parma, the Northeast Ohio region, the State of Ohio, and all states and provinces that comprise the Great Lakes’ basin; and,

WHEREAS, this monumental challenge includes working to safeguard the quality of the waters in order to protect these freshwater resources from threats of out-of-basin water diversions and to continue to enable our use and enjoyment of this water resource within the basin; and,

WHEREAS, Canada and the United States created the International Joint Commission through the 1909 Boundary Waters Treaty because they recognized that the two countries need to cooperate in order to manage these waters wisely and to protect them for the benefit of current and future generations; and,

WHEREAS, in June, 2002, the Commission appointed the International Water Uses Review Task Force to assist it in carrying out a review of the issue of water uses in the Great Lakes basin and to prepare a report on the topic; and,

WHEREAS, the International Water Uses Review Task Force finalized a report to the International Joint Commission, entitled “Protection of Waters of the Great Lakes” that encourages support for a more deliberative approach to finalizing the Great Lakes Compact to establish protection of waters of the Great Lakes from diversion; and,

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes Compact is an amendment to the Great Lakes Charter of 1985, which is a non-binding agreement signed by the Governors of the eight states and the Premiers of the two Canadian provinces that border the Great Lakes; and,

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Great Lakes Compact is to forge a new binding agreement to manage the Great Lakes waters, develop a decision-making standard for a new or increased water withdrawals, and make further commitments to continue to improve the Great Lakes water management system; and,

WHEREAS, the State of Ohio must continue its proud tradition of protecting Lake Erie and fulfill its commitment to protecting and restoring the Great Lakes by taking substantial steps and, whenever practical, match federal funding to implement the Great Lakes Collaboration Implementation Act; and,

WHEREAS, the State of Ohio should firmly establish its opposition to the diversion of Great Lakes water for the future protection of this important global resource that is vital to strengthening the American and Canadian economies and the vitality of the states and provinces along the Great Lakes shores;

Pg. 3 of L-129-08 Resolution supporting federal and state efforts to restore the Great Lakes through the federal “Great Lakes Collaboration Implementation Act” and the State of Ohio’s “Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River basin Water Resources Compact,” and declaring an emergency

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PARMA, STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That this Council hereby supports federal and state efforts to restore the Great Lakes through the federal “Great Lakes Collaboration Implementation Act” and the State of Ohio’s “Great Lakes – St. Lawrence Rive Basin Water Resources Compact.”

Section 2. That the Clerk of Council is hereby directed to forward a certified copy of this Resolution to Ohio Congressional Delegation, the Governor of Ohio, the members of the Ohio General Assembly, the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration, International Joint Commission (Canada & United States), Great Lakes Commission, Council of Great Lakes Governors, National League of Cities, and the legislative leadership in the Great Lakes states and provinces.

Section 3. That it is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements.

Section 4. That this Resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health, safety and welfare of the City of Parma, and for the further reason that this measure is necessary due to upcoming hearings on this matter, and this Resolution shall become immediately effective upon receiving the affirmative vote of two-thirds of all members elected to Council and approval of the Mayor, otherwise from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

PASSED: _____
PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

ATTEST: _____ APPROVED: _____
CLERK OF COUNCIL

FILED WITH
THE MAYOR: _____
MAYOR, CITY OF PARMA, OHIO